

REMARKS

This responds to the Final Office Action mailed on May 26, 2009.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 9, 11, 13, 15, and 16 are amended, claims 5-8 are canceled, and no claims are added; as a result, claims 1-4 and 9-18 are now pending in this application. The amendments are supported by the specification and the claims as filed. For example, support for the amendment to claim 4 can be found at least in Figure 4. The amendment to claim 16 is to clarify the scope of the subject matter of that claim. No new matter has been added.

§ 112 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-3, 9-11, and 13-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being allegedly indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The term "if" following the term "wherein" in the definition of linkage subunit B has been deleted in claims 1, 9, and 13. This amendment is believed to overcome the rejection outlined in the first paragraph at page 3 of the Office Action. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

At page 3 of the Office Action, third paragraph, the Examiner encouraged Applicant to redraw the structure of the base claims 1 and 9. Applicant has amended claims 1, 9, and 13 by effectively combining two structural elements into one, for each of the claims, as indicated in the amendments above. Applicant has also amended language in each of claims 1, 9, and 13 to provide more precise, clear, correct and unambiguous claims. The amendments to claims 3, 11, and 15 was necessitated by the removal of the term "het" from claims 1, 9, and 13. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments have placed each of the claims in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4, 12, and 18 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant thanks the Examiner for this favorable assessment.

CONCLUSION

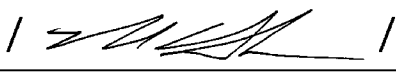
Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's representative at (612) 359-3270 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or deficiencies, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG & WOESSNER, P.A.
P.O. Box 2938
Minneapolis, MN 55402--0938
(612) 359-3270

Date August 24, 2009

By 
Michael H. Haukaas
Reg. No. 57,111

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being filed using the USPTO's electronic filing system EFS-Web, and is addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 24th day of August, 2009.

CHERYL L. KNAPP

Name


Signature